cross stripes (save rings on the tail), which are so common a feature of the coloration of the Cat-like forms.

In "bracketing together the three families which are described in the following pages, emphasis is laid upon a number of undoubtedly common features'. Palaeontology seems, however, to suggest that the Mustelidae come nearer to the Viverridae. That the Bears and Dogs are connected by extinct annectent genera does not interfere witlii their present distinctness.

The systematic arrangement of these Carnivora is not easy. It may be useful, however, to give a method of arrangement for the convenient placing of the genera.

The most primitive group is perhaps that of the true Bears, family Ursidae ; for in them the molars are two above and three below, and have thus not become diminished in number as in some of the other members of the order. Moreover, the Bears have lobate kidneys, which character, often occurring in the young of animals which when adult have smooth kidneys, may be looked upon as a primitive character. The feet furthermore are completely plantigrade. This family will contain only three genera, £7rs«s, *Melursus,* and *^Aeluropus.*

Next comes the family Procyonidae, in several members of which one molar is lost below, though in others the more archaic formula is retained. The kidneys are simple. This family contains the American genera *JProcyon, JVasua, J3assariscus, Bcbssaricyon, Cercoleptes,* and the Old-World form *^Lelurus.*

The third family, Mustelidae, has the molar formula reduced to -J- or ^-. The kidneys are simple except in the Otters. To this family are assigned the following genera: ----------*A.rcton.yx, Conepatus, Meles, Mephitis, Taocidea, Mydaus, Melli'oora,, Jfelictis, Ictonym, Mustela, Gcdictis, Grisonia, Putorius>, GuLo>* and the aquatic *Lutra, JEnhydris,* and *^Aonyoc.*

Fax®, 6. Procyonidae. This family is mainly American in range, the genus *^delurus* alone being a native of the Old World. But Zittel would include with the genera of this family the Viverrine and Oriental genus *^Arctictis,* a proceeding which is perhaps hardly admissible, though the occasional absence of a caecum, in that animal is so far in favour of such

an alliance. The largely vegetable nature of its food and its arboreal habits cause a certain amount of likeness to some of the members of tfoe present group of Carnivores. The Procyonidae have two